



Stockholm
University

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Master's Thesis

Specialarbete

30 Higher Education Credits
30 ECTS credits

Course code:	SAM112
Valid from:	Spring 2009
Date of approval:	2009-03-25
Department:	Department of Social Anthropology
Subject	Social Anthropology

Decision

Approved 2009-03-25

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements course

30 credits in Social Anthropology at the advanced level, including the following courses or equivalent:

Theory of Anthropological Science, 7,5 credits

The History of Anthropological Theory, 15 credits

Anthropological Method, 7,5 credits

English B or equivalent

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
M112	Master's thesis	30

Course content

During the course, the student carries out an independent scientific study of a social anthropological subject in the form of a written examination of a minimum of 30,000 and a maximum of 35,000 words. Each student is assigned a supervisor to help with the research which is part of the course and the writing of the thesis. The course is concluded with a seminar at which the student defends the thesis and is an opponent on a fellow student's thesis.

Learning outcomes

After having completed the course the student will be able:

Independently and critically to identify and formulate social anthropological research questions

Plan and carry out using adequate methods a piece of scientific work within the specified time frame

Verbally and in writing clearly present and discuss findings and the knowledge and arguments that underlie them, as well as identify new areas for research and theory formulation within anthropology

Independently carry out a scientific study and display those skills needed to take part in anthropological research and development work, or to work in another qualified area within the discipline and within a given time

frame

Judge the relevance and applicability of social anthropological knowledge to current problems and questions of a scientific and social nature.

Education

Teaching is in the form of individual supervision and supervision at seminars. The seminars are obligatory and students are expected to contribute actively to discussion and show that they have reflected on their own and others work.

The course is examined in the form of an independently produced thesis, and a completed seminar at which students defend their own thesis and act as an opponent on a thesis written by a fellow student.

Forms of examination

The thesis primarily provides the basis for awarding a grade of A-F. For a final grade of A on the course, a grade of A for the thesis and the opposition is required. In the case of other grades, the opposition can determine the final grade in marginal cases (a well performed opposition can result in a higher grade for the course).

Examination Assignments (1) Thesis

A

Innovative choice of research problem and/or analysis and interpretation. New and valuable results. A very convincing scientific argument. Clear ties between relevant materials, including ethnography if the student has carried out an independent piece of fieldwork, that correspond well with theory and method used. Independent work that displays good knowledge of and is related to previous research.

Very clear and logical disposition. Stringent language, very rigorous method, notation, and referencing of literature and sources. The thesis is completed within the given time frame.

B

Stringent and well formulated research questions, convincing analysis/interpretation and scientific argumentation. New results. Clear links between relevant and well circumscribed materials, including ethnography if the student has carried out an independent piece of fieldwork, that correspond with theory and method used. Independent piece of work which displays knowledge of and is related to previous research. Clear and logical disposition. Stringent language. Correct and reliable method, argumentation, notation, and referencing of literature and sources. The thesis is completed within the given time frame.

C

Well executed analysis/interpretation and scientific argumentation. Partially new results. The research questions and investigation, including ethnography if the student has carried out an independent piece of fieldwork, and the analysis are closely related to each other. Ties to previous research. Nuanced reflections on the relation between the research questions, theory, method and empirical material. Clear use of language and clear disposition.

D

The research questions, investigation and analysis/interpretation are related to each other in an acceptable manner. Expected results. Some ties to previous research. Some reflection on the relationship between research questions, theory, method and empirical material. Relatively clear use of language. Disposition works sufficiently well.

E

The thesis shows signs of an ability to formulate an anthropological research question and to analyze relevant material. Sufficient ties between the research question, investigation and analysis/interpretation. Acceptable use of language. Disposition works sufficiently well.

Fx

One or more of the following shortcomings: Research questions, investigation and analysis not coherently related to each other and/or vaguely formulated. Weak links to previous research, theory and method. Language difficulties. Problematic disposition.

F

One or more of the following shortcomings: The thesis has not been submitted. The research question cannot be answered by the theory, method and empirical material used in a thesis of that length.

Examination Assignment 2 (Opposition)

A-B

Very thorough summation of another thesis. Task carried out independently with important suggestions for improvement. Relevant priority given to central and peripheral problems in the thesis. Thorough examination of the scientific methods and conclusions.

C-D-E

Thorough summation of another thesis where both strengths and weaknesses are discussed. Central and peripheral problems in the thesis not always sufficiently identified. Examination of scientific method.

Fx

Inadequate summation of another thesis. Obvious strengths and shortcomings not identified. Inappropriate priority given to central and peripheral problems in the thesis.

Required reading

Course literature is chosen in consultation with the supervisor.